LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A hose coupling assembly for connecting a hose having a corrugated portion to an external passage, the hose coupling assembly comprising:

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a fitting member including (i) a passage portion having a receiving passage, and (ii) a first engagement catch projecting outwardly from an open peripheral end of the passage portion; and

a socket ~~having~~ having:(i) an elastically and diametrically-expandable socket body for covering both of the fitting member and the corrugated ~~portion,~~portion; (ii) a second engagement catch, formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement ~~catch,~~catch; and (iii) a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body, for mating with the corrugated portion~~; wherein~~, wherein:

the socket is formed such that the connecting of the hose with the external passage with a tight seal is achieved by pressing the socket attached to the corrugated portion toward the fitting member to engage the second engagement catch with the first engagement ~~catch, and~~catch;

~~the disengaging~~disengagement of the second engagement catch from the first engagement catch is achieved by expanding ~~a~~ the diameter of the socket ~~body~~body; and

the entire socket expands while the socket is pressed toward the fitting member.

2. (Currently Amended) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the socket body has a slit across the entirety of a length of the socket to provide a C-shaped cross section.

3. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the socket body has a plurality of arcuate bodies and deformable interlinking arches for connecting the arcuate bodies.

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4. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claims 3, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

5. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claims 1, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

6. (Withdrawn-Presently amended) The hose coupling assembly according to ~~claim 4, wherein~~claim 5, wherein the fitting member comprises a riser for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket.

7. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claims 1, wherein the socket comprises a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

8. (Original) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fitting member comprises a diametrical expansion projection for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

9. (Original) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the socket body comprises a guide for guiding the diametrical expansion projection.

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10. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claims 2, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

11. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 10, wherein the fitting member comprises a riser for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket.

12. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claims 2, wherein the socket comprises a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

13. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a diametrical expansion restricting member for restricting diametrical expansion of the socket body when attached to the socket body extending over the slit.

14. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 13, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises: an arcuate restricting member body conforming to a contour of the socket body; and a catch formed on an inside peripheral wall of the arcuate restricting member body, the catch being constructed and arranged to engage the contour of the socket body when the socket is pressed into the fitting member in a direction of a hose insertion.

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15. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 14, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises a push operation projection projecting from an exterior surface of the restricting member body, for applying force in the direction of hose insertion.

16. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 15, further comprising a temporary attaching member, the temporary attaching member being constructed and arranged to temporarily attach the socket body to the fitting body when the hose is not attached to the socket.

17. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 16, wherein the temporary attaching member is constructed and arranged to be temporarily attached to the socket at midpoint in process of the hose insertion.

18. (Withdrawn) The hose coupling assembly according to claim 13, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises a restricting member body having an

arcuate face conforming to an exterior face of the socket body and an engaging pin projecting from the arcuate face, for engaging the socket body.

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20-26 (Canceled)

27. (New) A hose coupling assembly for connecting a hose, which has a corrugated section, to an opening, the hose coupling assembly comprising:

a fitting member, which includes a receiving passage and a first engagement catch, wherein the first engagement catch projects outwardly from an end of the fitting member; and

a generally C-shaped socket, wherein the C-shaped socket includes:

an elastically and diametrically-expandable socket body for covering the fitting member and the corrugated section;

a slit formed in the socket, wherein the slit permits the socket to expand diametrically;

a second engagement catch, formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement catch; and

a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body, for mating with the corrugated portion, wherein:

the socket is formed such that connection of the hose with the external passage with a tight seal is achieved by pressing the socket, which is attached to the corrugated section, toward the fitting member to engage the second engagement catch with the first engagement catch, wherein the diameter of the socket increases and separation occurs at the slit when the socket is pressed axially toward the fitting member; and

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disengagement of the second engagement catch from the first engagement catch is achieved by expanding the diameter of the socket body.

28 (New) wherein the separation at the slit and the expansion of the socket is caused by engagement between the first engagement catch and the second engagement catch when the socket is pressed axially toward the fitting member.